REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated December 16, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 5, 9, 16, 21 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,169,967 (Bachle). The Examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Finally, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 7 and 11-15 would be allowable if amended to overcome the outstanding objections, and that Claims 3, 8, 10, 17-20 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Office Action, Applicant has traversed the outstanding §102(b) rejection of the claims, and has amended Claim 5 to obviate the §112, second paragraph, rejection thereof. Applicant has also traversed the Examiner's objection to the drawings. Accordingly, Claims 1-24 remain in the application for purposes of continued prosecution.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 5, 9, 16, 21 and 23-24 under 35. U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bachle. In this regard, the Examiner states that:

> Regarding Claim 1, an electrically conductive connector fitting for a rigid conduit comprising: a connector body 140 (see fig 1) having a passage 144 for receiving a conduit 160(see fig 1); a gland nut 110 (see fig 1) threadedly coupled to the connector body (see fig 3, column 5, lines 45-550), said gland nut including a passage extending therethrough and a shoulder 116 (see figs 4 and 6, column 5 lines 65-68, and column 6 lines 1-2) extending into said passage; a continuous metal compression ring 120 (see figs 5, 5A-C) positioned within said gland nut passage (see figs 4 and 6), said compression ring including a top 127 and an end portion 123 adjacent to said gland nut shoulder (see figs 4 and 6), said end portion being psoitionable

within said shoulder when said gland nut is tightened (see figs 4 and 6).
Regarding claim 2, wherein said compression ring is comprised of a central portion including an annular ridge and first and second end portions 124 and 125 respectively have substantially flat, rim-like configurations (see fig 5A), said stop being comprised of said annular ridge see fig 5A).
Regarding claim 5, claim 5 is included in this rejection as best understood. Regarding claim 9, wherein said stop on said compression ring is engagement with an end of said connector body to limit movement of said compression ring in the direction of said connector body as said gland nut is tightened (see figs 4, 6 and entire column 5).

Regarding claim 16, a connector body 140 (see fig 1) having a first passage for receiving a rigid conduit 160 (see fig 1); a gland nut 110 (see fig 1) threadably coupled to said connector body (see fig 3, column 5 lines 45-55), said gland nut including a second passage (not numbered, see fig 1) and a shoulder 116 in said second passage (see fig 6, column 5 lines 65-68, and column 6 lines 1-2); a continuous metal compression ring 120 (see figs 5, 5A-5C) positioned within said second passage, said compression ring including an annular stop 127 and first and second coaxial end portions 123 and 124 respectively extending from said stop (see fig 5A); and means 113 for providing a tactile indication that said gland nut has been properly torqued (see fig 1).

Assembly of the device of Bachle comprises the method steps of:
Regarding claim 21, a method of securing an electrically conductive connector fitting to a rigid metal conduit 160 (see fig 1), the connector fitting including a metal connector body 140 (see fig 1), a metal gland nut 110 (see fig 1) threadably coupled to the connector body (see fig 3, column 5 lines 45-55), and a continuous metal compression ring 120 (see figs 5, 5A-5C) positioned within the gland nut, the compression ring including a central portion including a stop 123 and first and second coaxial end portions 124, 125 respectively adjoining the stop) see fig 5), comprising; mounting the connector fitting to the rigid metal conduit such that the conduit extends within the connector body and the gland nut (see fig 1); and rotating the gland nut with respect to the connector body, thereby urging said second end portion of said compression ring between said

conduit and said connector body and causing said first end portion thereof to be press fit between an inner surface of said gland nut and said conduit such that said fitting is substantially rain tight (see fig 3).

Regarding claim 23, wherein said connector body includes an external stop 143 (see fig 1), including rotating said gland nut until it engages said external stop (see fig 3).

Regarding claim 24, including rotating said gland nut until engagement of said stop with internal surfaces of said connector fitting is tactile detected (see fig 3).

Applicant respectfully traverses the foregoing rejection of the claims. In this regard, the Bachle reference cited by the Examiner discloses a liquid-tight fitting 100 for liquid-type flexible metal conduit including a gland nut 110 having captured therein a sealing ring 120, a ferrule 130, and a body member 140 having an associated sealing member 150 and lock nut 155 (column 3, lines 11-19). Sealing ring 120 is shown in detail in Figures 5, 5A, 5B and 5C and is described in detail at column 4, lines 15-37. In particular, the Bachle reference states at lines 22-23: "[a]s may be clearly seen in FIGS. 5 and 5A, the sealing ring 120 is not an endless ring and includes ends 121 and 122." The Bachle reference does not include any additional disclosure to the contrary. Thus, it is clear that sealing ring 120 of Bachle is what is commonly referred to as a "split metal compression ring." Such split metal compression rings are described in the background of the present application.

As recited in Claim 1, and as described in the present specification, the present invention utilizes "a continuous metal compression ring" positioned within the gland nut passage. The specification describes in paragraph 11 that: "the compression ring 16 in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention is continuous as opposed to split. There are accordingly no gaps therein." Thus, it is abundantly clear that the cited Bachle reference does not disclose a continuous metal compression ring as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper, and must therefore be withdrawn.

Similarly, independent Claims 16 and 21 also recite a continuous metal compression ring. As mentioned hereinabove, the cited Bachle reference fails to disclose a continuous metal compression ring. Accordingly, the outstanding 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections of independent Claims 16 and 21 are improper, and must be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as it is believed that independent Claims 1, 16 and 21 define over the prior art, Claims 2, 5, 9, and 23-24, which depend therefrom, are also believed to define over the prior art. Accordingly, the outstanding §102(b) rejections of such claims should also be withdrawn.

As set forth hereinabove, Claim 5 has been amended to obviate the outstanding §112, second paragraph, rejection. In particular, the term "said shoulder" in line 2 has been amended to read "said exterior shoulder." In view of the amendment to such claim, it is respectfully requested that the §112, second paragraph, rejection of such claim be withdrawn.

Finally, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the foregoing rejection. In this regard, Applicant does not understand the outstanding rejection in that the elements mentioned by the Examiner are described in the specification and already shown in the drawings.

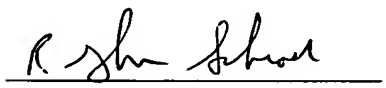
More specifically, the "end portion" recited in Claim 1 is described in the specification at lines 1-2 of paragraph 12 as follows: "[t]he compression ring 16 includes a central portion 28 and first and second coaxial end portions 30, 32." The "at least one means" recited in Claims 7 and 11 is described in the specification in paragraphs 17 and 18. In this regard, all of the elements described in these paragraphs are already shown in the drawings. Finally, the Examiner noted that the term "means for providing a tactile indication" recited in Claim 17 must be shown in the drawings. This same term is also used in Claim 16, and is described in the specification in paragraph 19. However, all of the described elements are already shown in the drawings. In sum, the claim language noted by

the Examiner is clearly explained in the specification, and already shown in the drawings. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed.

In view of the amendments to the claims, together with the remarks set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is, in all conditions, complete and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

In the event that the Examiner has any questions concerning this Amendment, he is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



R. Glenn Schroeder
Registration No.: 34,720
Attorney for Applicant

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(516) 822-3550
RGS:tt

202059_1

Amendments to the Drawings:

The objections to the drawings set forth by the Examiner in the above-referenced Office Action have been traversed in the Remarks/Arguments of the present Amendment.